CCS Claims on Shipments of Cotton Textiles

205. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council has expressed serious concern over the huge piling up of CCS claims on shipments of cotton textiles;

(b) if so, the reasons for not releasing funds by the Government for disbursement of CCS claims; and

(c) the time by which the Government propose to release funds for disbursement to CCS claimants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). The payment of CCS claims pertaining to export of all categories/products including Cotton Textiles is pending due to non availability of adequate funds. As soon as necessary funds are made available the same will be released to various licensing offices for disbursement to C.C.S. claimants.

[*Translation*]

Construction of Muzaffarpur-Dharbanga-Farbisganj National Highway

206. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 649 on 26th July, 1991 and state:

(a) the distance between Muzaffarpur-Dharbanga-Farbisganj and Muzaffarpur-Khagaria-Farbisganj respectively; and

(b) the steps being taken to include the construction of Muzaffarpur-Dharbhanga-Farbisganj National Highway in the Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The position is as under:—

(i) Muzaffarpur-Dharbanga-Farbisganj = 250 Kms

(ii) Muzaffarpur-Khagaria-Farbisganj = 370 Kms

(b) A decision about declaration of new National Highways in various States including those pertaining to Bihar State would be taken only after finalisation of the VIII Five Year Plan subject to availability of funds and other criteria laid down for the purpose. It is, therefore, too early to indicate the position at this point of time.

[*English*]

Foreign Exchange Position

207. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI... Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: the extent to which the foreign exchange position and credit worthiness in the international market has improved as a result of the fiscal measures taken by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): As a result of various measures taken by the Government, foreign exchange reserves position is being restored to the level that existed two years ago and one of the credit rating agencies has removed the credit watch in October, 1991.

Allotment of Target for Janata Cloth to Karnataka

208. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the allotment of targets for Janata Cloth to the States is based on the number of handlooms in the States and the past performance in production of Janata Cloth;

(b) if so, the performance of Karnataka during the past three years in this regard, year-wise;

(c) the target of Janata cloth allotted to Karnataka during each of the last three years and the proposed target fixed for 1991-92; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that Janata cloth is easily available to poor people in rural areas of Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) The target for production of janata cloth in a State is fixed on the basis of a number of factors such as (i) production capacity; (ii) past performance in production; (iii)a entitlement for consumption of janata cloth assessed on the basis of population on pro-rata basis; and (iv) overall target of production of janata cloth fixed for the country which depends on the amount of subsidy earmarked in a year for release under this scheme.

(b) and (c). The details of target fixed and the achievement made in the production of janata cloth in Karnataka during the last three years is as under:-

(in million square metres)

Year	*Target fixed*	*Production achieved*
1988	37.38	33.18
1989-90	40.18	35.29
1990-91	40.00	40.25
1991-92	33.00	N.A.

(d) The Janata cloth produced in Karnataka is distributed to the targetted consumers through the Public Distribution System (PDS) in the State and the Federations of consumer cooperatives identified by the District administrative authorities. The production agencies in the State are allowed to sell normally a maximum of 15% of their production through their own retail outlets. The scheme envisages that at least 75% of janata cloth is sold to target groups in the rural areas according to a land holding income criterion. A State Level Committee functioning under the Chairmanship of Secretary-in-charge of Handlooms of Karnataka is monitoring the performance of FDS and other distribution arrangements made under this scheme in the State.

Clearance of Projects/Schemes from Bihar

209. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the projects and schemes submitted by the Government of Bihar pending for clearance with the Union Government;

(b) their present status in each case;